

AMERICAN DESTROYERS ACTIVE IN WAR ZONE

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—Formal announcement that American destroyers, manned by picked crews have carried the flag into the war zones of Europe and are operating against German submarines with British and French war vessels was made last night by Secretary Daniels after the news had come from London. The number and names of the vessels were not disclosed. It was made clear, however, that the fighting power of the nation was to be exerted to its utmost to stamp out the U-boat menace.

The secretary's report follows: "United States naval vessels have been operating with the allied naval forces in European waters since May 4. A number of destroyers sailed from American ports in the latter part of April, and all arrived at their destination without accident or delay of any kind. They were ready for operations when they arrived and went into service immediately.

The United States vessels are under command of Rear Admiral Sims, who went to England and France several weeks ago to arrange for active co-operation between the naval forces of the United States and those of the other nations at war with Germany. Plans formulated after reports from Rear Admiral Sims, made as a result of his conferences with the British and French admirals, are now being effected.

"It has been the purpose of the United States navy to give the large measure of assistance to other countries at war with Germany that is consistent with the full and complete protection of our own coasts and territorial waters.

"The navy department has received no reports that engagements have

occurred between the United States vessels now in European waters and vessels of the enemy."

The disposition of the destroyers has been left entirely to Admiral Sims, who has worked out a careful plan for use of the vessels placed under his command after conferences both with the British and French admirals. Admiral Sims was selected for the task because of his wide general experience in the navy and also because of particular training in destroyer operations.

(By Associated Press.)
QUEENSTOWN, May 17.—A squadron of American torpedo boat destroyers has safely crossed the Atlantic and is patrolling the seas in war service.

The American navy's actual entry into the war zone already has been productive of a brush between a destroyer and a German underwater boat, but the result of it has not been made public.

The destroyer squadron arrived in Queenstown after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic, but almost immediately after a formal exchange of greetings with the British naval officials put to sea again for the hard work that is before it.

A crowd of several hundred persons, some of them carrying tiny American flags lined the water front and cheered the sailors from the moment they first sighted the flotilla until it reached the dock. The crowd cheered again when a few minutes later the American consul, who had come to the dock to welcome the flotilla. Everything was done in a simple, business like manner. There was an entire absence of formality.

The commander of the British flotilla was waiting on board his ship and sent wireless greetings to

the American units as soon as they hove in sight, steaming in a long line into the harbor.

After the exchange of shore greetings and the British commander had congratulated the American officers on their safe voyage, he asked: "When will you be ready for business?"

"We can start at once," the American commander replied promptly.

This response, so characteristically American, surprised the British commander, who said he had not expected the Americans would be ready to begin work on this side so soon after their long voyage.

When he had recovered from his surprise, he made a short tour of the destroyers and admitted that the American tars looked prepared.

"Yes," replied the American commander, "we made preparations on the way over. That is why we are ready."

The equipment on board the destroyers was found to be in excellent condition and remarkably well suited to the requirements on this side of the ocean. It was said by the British officer that the only thing lacking in the equipment was heavier clothing. It appears that the Americans are wearing clothing too light for the varying conditions of weather they will encounter in these waters. This lack, however, was quickly provided for.

After the formalities had ended and the needs of the men were attended to, the American ships at once put to sea, the men from captains to seamen looking in the pink of condition and apparently enthusiastic for their task.

"They are certainly a fine body of men, and what's more, their craft look just as fit," said the British commander as he watched the destroyers file seaward.

IMPROVED CROP REPORTS FROM THE WEST

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—More seasonable weather conditions during the week just ended caused crops to make excellent progress in the western half of the country, but in eastern districts extreme cold was decidedly unfavorable.

The National Weather and Crop Bulletin says cotton and corn and some garden truck were not only retarded but considerably damaged by the continued cold weather. The week was more favorable for farm work, however, and good progress was made in all sections.

Winter wheat generally is making good growth except in Oklahoma. Corn is being planted on much of the abandoned winter wheat acreage in Nebraska. Spring wheat is making excellent growth in the southern and central state of the belt and on the Pacific coast. Cool weather in central and eastern districts was unfavorable for corn and in places much will need to be re-planted.

In the southern states cotton was unfavorably affected and corn made slow growth.

There are many reports of increased acreage for potatoes.

CONTROL OF SHIPPING VESTED IN PRESIDENT

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—A provision empowering the president to use the nation's armed forces to prevent any obstruction of the orderly conduct of movement of interstate or foreign commerce during the war was written into the administration's preferential shipping bill at a conference between President Wilson and Chairman Newlands and Adamson of the congressional interstate commerce committee.

One provision added to the preferential shipping section would make it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$10,000 and five years im-

prisonment for any carrier or its employees to fail to comply promptly with a preferential shipment order. Another would give the interstate commerce commission authority to fix a compensation for an extraordinary service.

The new section regarding obstruction to commerce is cast in comprehensive terms, making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$100 and imprisonment for six months to obstruct or retard, or aid in obstructing or retarding the passage of the United States mail or any carriage, horse driver or carrier carrying the same.

A great many different kinds of ore. From January 1 to May 1, 1903 samples had been received and 5235 determinations made. Among the samples recently received was one supracalcite, a copper, lead, zinc vanadate containing good vanadium values.

About the only thing we have to fear is that if the spring points are drafted into the army, civilians may indulge in verse riots.—Galveston News.

MUCH PROSPECTING GOING ON NOW IN NEVADA

Prospecting in Nevada, judging from the number of ore samples that are being received at the state mining laboratory for analysis, was never greater in the history of the state. During the month of May 1168 determinations on 262 samples of ore were made by V. M. Haner-son, who has charge of the work. These samples came from all sections of the state and represented

DESTRUCTION OF LENS BY GERMAN FORCES

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Via London, May 16.—The Germans received a heavy check north of the Scarpe river today where in massed formation they stormed this position, which was recently won by the British. After a terrific bombardment lasting a considerable time, the German infantry came down the slopes of Greenland Hill from the direction of Plovaire.

The British artillery made the

hillside look like a mushroom farm, shell holes sprouting up thickly over the entire field. Machine guns streamed nicked missiles into the enemy ranks on the front and in the flanks.

Sheer weight and momentum carried the Germans by the British outposts and even into the chemical works themselves, but, like a rubber ball, the rebound was instantaneous and swiftly the defenders struck. After a short and hard fight the enemy was thrown out with heavy losses, leaving the British established more

securely than ever. The fighting continued about Bullecourt and a German partial success recently won there was wiped out.

Meantime the British strengthened their positions eastward toward Rouex and drew a mile closer to Lens. Here the Germans continue their work of wrecking the district. Buildings are being blown up and machinery is being destroyed in order that the great mining center shall not furnish the slightest benefit to the allies when the Germans are finally forced to let go.

FOOD LEGISLATION LAW COVERS ALL BUSINESS

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—Redrafting of food legislation pending in congress to meet the views of the administration is forecast in the request of the senate agriculture committee that the house committee name a sub-committee to assist it in drawing new bills.

The administration calls for three measures, one to promote food production, another providing regulatory measures, and the third giving authority to insurance preferential shipments to food supplies. The first two bills are pending in the house and the third was introduced in both houses yesterday. The first house bill probably will be allowed to stand as it is, but

the second will be changed to give the president regulatory powers vested in the bill in the agricultural department.

The second bill also will authorize creation of an emergency food agency to operate under direction of the president. It would be headed by one man with a staff of assistants many of them business men working without pay, and would be authorized to utilize the services of other government departments and agencies.

Herbert C. Hoover in all likelihood will be named to head this board. Secretary Houston, of the agricultural department, who was instrumental in having Mr. Hoover return from abroad to report on the

food situation in Europe, said he thought Mr. Hoover would be the best possible selection in view of his services in Belgium and his wide experience in dealing with food problems.

The main things sought in the administration program of legislation outlined by Secretary Houston are:

Power to increase production, regulation of exchanges, power to fix prices and to requisition hoarded supplies; power to regulate use of grain in the manufacture of alcoholics; prevention of speculation; licensing of distributing agencies, and authority to create an emergency food agency to enforce food control measures.

PUBLISHERS PROTEST AGAINST CONFISCATORY WAR TAXES

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—Spokesmen for newspapers and periodicals, large and small, and from all parts of the country, appeared before the senate finance committee yesterday to attack as unreasonable and confiscatory the war revenue bill provision which would create a zone system with greatly increased rates for second class mail matter. They declared if the measure went into effect many publications would be compelled to suspend.

Don C. Seitz, of the New York World, representing the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, said the proposed increase was not a war tax, but an effort to further repress and embarrass the newspaper industry.

He told the committee there al-

ready had been a big slump in business, which, if continued, would paralyze the newspapers. The publishers, he added, were not seeking special favors, but wanted to be placed on the same level with people engaged in other business.

Arthur Dunn, speaking for the smaller newspapers of the country said they could not stand the increase in postal rates with the increased cost of print paper and that many would be compelled to go out of business if the bill was enacted.

A similar view of the situation was taken by Arthur J. Baldwin, of New York, vice-president of the Associated Business Papers, Incorporated, and representing 300 trade and business periodicals.

J. A. Moore, of New York, repre-

sented the periodical publishing association, composed of 86 of the leading magazines, said the increase would mean an added expenditure of more than \$3,700,000 in postage to members of that organization and ruination for many of them.

E. C. Meredith, of Des Moines, speaking for 45 of the leading farm publications, joined in the protest. He argued that newspapers are a necessary asset of the country and that the government needs the circulation of every printed page possible.

All agreed that there is no unwillingness on the part of publishers to pay war taxes, but they do not want a tax that would be an unbearable burden.

D. W. Morris, of Marshallton, Ia., representing several Iowa newspapers, said they could not stand a gross sales tax of 20 per cent any better than the grocer.

"This bill," he added, "proposes an increase of three per cent on luxuries, and on the next page proposes an increase of over 300 per cent on the transportation of newspapers."

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HIGH HONOR FROM KING OF DENMARK

Peter Anker, a pioneer rancher of the Lovelock valley, has received a personal message from the king of Denmark, conferring on him the order of Knight of Dannebrog, which is the highest distinction within the bestowal of the Danish monarch. Anker, who is an American citizen, was at one time high in the consular service of Denmark, and for many years has been the Nevada representative of the Danish consulate, working through the San Francisco headquarters—Lovelock Review-Miner.

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